

## **Report on the 1997 Demonstration of the North East Weather Association and Blight Alert to Onion Growers**

### **Project Co-leaders:**

John Mishanec, CCE Area Vegetable IPM Spec., Maire Ullrich, CCE Vegetable Crops Agent, Orange County, Carol MacNeil, CCE Vegetable Program in Ontario, Wayne, Yates and Steuben Counties and Roland Le Maire, Consultant, Phelps.

### **ABSTRACT:**

The Orange county IPM program has been running Blight Alert demonstrations for over 5 years. As the system for disease forecasting developed from using hygrothermographs to automated weather stations, growers needed to be brought along with that development as well. In 1996, the North East Weather Association (NEWA) was set up to facilitate the transfer of weather related information to growers. Seven growers in Orange County and two in Wayne Co. participated in a coordinated Blight Alert demonstration employing NEWA. The growers received weather data and a rating for Botrytis favorable conditions (IPI) via daily Fax. Fields were also scouted to inform the grower when Botrytis lesions reach threshold to trigger the first spray application. Subsequent sprays were dictated by the IPI levels. Seven spray applications in both Orange Co. and Wayne Co. were made according to the information received via NEWA. This is compared to ten to twelve spray applications on conventionally sprayed fields.

For a printed copy of the entire report, please contact the NYS IPM office at:

IPM House  
630 W. North St.  
New York State Agricultural Experiment Station  
Geneva NY 14456  
315-878-2353